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FRENTE REVOLUCIONARIA DE TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE

(REVOLUTIONARY FRONT FOR AN INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR)

FRETILIN

M E S S A G E

TO THE LONDON MEETING OF SUPPORT GROUPS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR.

FRETILIN EXTERNAL DELEGATION

ABÍLIO ARAÚJO
HEAD

Message

To the London meeting of support groups, international organizations and concerned individuals committed to the cause of the people of East Timor

Dear friends,

In spite of our personal absence, believe us, dear friends, that we follow closely and with sympathy the efforts the solidarity movement has been making to defend the most sacred rights of the Maubere people, namely the right to self-determination and independence.

I want to make clear our high appreciation not only regarding the initiative of organizing the London meeting but also the general efforts of groups in Europe during this tenth year of national resistance of the people of East Timor.

As you know, in the year that has just ended there were a number of conditions that can be summarized as follows:

1) Continuation of a situation of armed conflict in East Timor.
2) Deterioration of the social and economic conditions in which the people of East Timor are living.
3) The beginning of conversations between Indonesia and Portugal under the auspices of the U.N. Secretary General under the framework of General Assembly resolution 37/30 of 1982.
4) The growth of international concern over the plight of the East Timorese people.

As you may also know, during 1984 the FRETILIN External Delegation developed and improved the contact channels with the Revolutionary Council of National Resistance, the leading body of the political and military struggle of our people. Thus, the information summarized in points 1 and 2 came both directly from the FRETILIN leadership and other highly placed credible sources, such as Church and diplomatic sources. I take this opportunity to send U.N.

documents which give information on the situation in East Timor. These documents transcribe the public report sent during 1984 by the President of the RCNR, Xanana Gusmaõ, as well as other accounts from East Timor.

Dear friends, 1985 will be a very important year for the fate of the East Timorese people. FRETILIN considers it imperative to search for a comprehensive peace for East Timor, and is deeply determined to contribute to the reaching of a lasting and stable solution. We are convinced that Jakarta will not have the capacity to win a military victory over FRETILIN. At the same time, however, we believe that if the current balance of forces do not change, FRETILIN also will not be able to impose a military solution in the territory. For this reason, we demand a negotiated settlement to the conflict. Such a solution would benefit both the people of East Timor and Indonesia.

Thus, our leadership, inspired by the high patriotic spirit that has always guided our action, is searching for international support for our peace plan that was presented to the world and to Indonesia for the first time during the preliminary conversations held in March 1983 between FRETILIN and Indonesia.

Today FRETILIN brings new elements to this peace plan:

1) The non-exclusiveness of FRETILIN as representatives of the people of East Timor.
2) The proposal to set up in East Timor a parliamentary and multiparty system.

Within this framework, FRETILIN is making appeals to all Timorese nationalists, both inside East Timor and in the outside world, for national unity.

Our policy of national unity that is becoming known in Timorese communities in Australia and POrtugal can be implemented either within FRETILIN (that is, a broad nationalist front of all Timorese, without discrimination based on race, religious belief, ideology, social status or sex); or can be based on platforms of understanding with other Timorese political parties which are representative and credible enough and which

defend the independence of East Timor.

Thus, in the outside world efforts are being made to reach a unity of aims among Timorese so that our demands in the international arena can be effectively made.

To avoid possible confusion, I want to emphasize that, despite this new network of relationships, FRETILIN does exist as an independent entity and will continue to exist. As has been made clear time and again, FRETILIN is the force that leads the political and military resistance inside East Timor.

Dear friends, the question of national unity is one that must be resolved among Timorese and only they themselves can define the most adequate forms of this unity.

There can be no question that unity is needed. Today, in 1985, our people follow with deep concern the beginning of conversations between Portugal and Indonesia, held, as mentioned, under the auspices of the U.N. Secretary General. To date, there is no indication that our people, through its representatives, will be able to participate in this process of negotiations as "a party interested in the question." We therefore ask: how can the U.N. Secretary General interpret resolution 37/30, with reference to the point that speaks of "parties interested in the question", in a manner that excludes the East Timorese people? The people of East Timor are without doubt the "most interested party" in the search for a solution to the question of East Timor!

It is in this context that FRETILIN conducts its work within the Timorese communities in the diaspora, in order to:

1) Ensure that our people will not be absent from any process to determine their future.

2) Demand a new ceasefire between the belligerent parties, without which it is impossible to address the human rights situation in East Timor. One caanot talk about the wish to see human rights respected in East Timor when one ignores the existence of a war situation. It is on this ground that

FRETILIN -- although it considers the beginning of the dialogue between Portugal and Indonesia positive -- demands its participation in the dialogue, as it is a "belligerent party" to the East Timor conflict.

Let us state what we would like to see as a result of negotiations among Portugal, Indonesia and representatives of the East Timorese people:

1) First Phase: the re-establishment of a ceasefire agreement to be made between Indonesia and FRETILIN.
2) The opening of East Timor to international humanitarian agencies in order to start emergency aid and development projects for the population (Second Phase).
3) Constitution of a multinational or U.N. force to supervise or guarantee the ceasefire through the implementation of point 5 (below), and the deployment of the belligerent parties in places to be agrred upon.
4) Constitution of a transitional administration in which Timorese political forces and other interested parties will participate.
5) Organization of a free and democratic consultation of the East Timorese people.

Dear friends, in the year 1985 a Presidential campaign will take place in Portugal, and this campaign will be a period of great importance for the question of East Timor. FRETILIN is carrying out efforts to promote an international conference whose main objective will be to press the Portuguese state to carry out its historic responsibility to East Timor.

FRETILIN has nominated Roque Rodrigues to direct - and assist the work of organizing this conference.

FRETILIN would like this conference to have the greatest possible impact. For this reason, at the present moment FRETILIN is in search of:
1) The necessary funds for the organization of this conference.
2) The support of people of worldwide reputation as well as international organizations in order to constitute an international committee to promote the conference.

3) In Portugal, a national committee will be constituted, which will bring together people of prestige in the fields of politics, science and the arts, covering a large and diverse spectrum.

Specific questions regarding the conference will be discussed during the next meeting of the FRETILIN External Delegation which will take place in Lisbon in late January.

To close, allow me to ask all those in solidarity with East Timor to renew their efforts to spread information on the struggle in East Timor and proceed with actions for the people of East Timor.

The FRETILIN External Delegation as well as its political leadership in our homeland, in spite of the enormous difficulties with which it has to contend in its daily struggles, wants to assure you that just as it has been fighting for the past ten years, it will continue to do so, to reach a just solution to its mission. We are Mauberes and fighters for the cause of our people, the cause of self-determination and national independence. We will never subordinate our struggle to any interests that are foreign to those of our people. This is the reason for our existence and our combat!

Lisbon, 11 January 1985